

SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE NEWS FOR SUNDAY 15 AUGUST 2021

Good morning and welcome to the weekly news bulletin of the South African Radio League read by [your name, call sign and QTH]

The South African Radio League broadcasts a news bulletin each Sunday in Afrikaans and English at 08:15 and 08:30 Central African Time respectively on HF and various VHF and UHF repeaters around the country. The bulletin is relayed on Echolink by Johan, ZS6JPL. The audio bulletins can be downloaded from the League website at www.sarl.org.za while the text bulletin can be downloaded from <https://sarlnewsbulletin.wordpress.com/>. To join the MailChimp bulletin mailing list, send an e-mail to the SARL Secretary.

In the news today:

THE SARL HF DIGITAL CONTEST THIS AFTERNOON

6 METRE REPEATER LINK IN THE WESTERN CAPE NOW PERMANENTLY ON

and

THE INTERNATIONAL LIGHTHOUSE AND LIGHTSHIP WEEKEND NEXT WEEKEND

Stay tuned for more information on these and other interesting news items.

We start this bulletin with news of a silent key.

It is with deep regret that we announce that the key of Pierre Lindeque, ZS4PF of Riebeekstad went silent on Friday 13 August 2021. Pierre was active on the VHF and above bands as well as on HF, a radio amateur who really enjoyed the hobby.

We extend our sincere condolences to his wife Santie, family and friends.

PAUSE

You are listening to a news bulletin of the South African Radio League.

THE SARL HF DIGITAL CONTEST THIS AFTERNOON

The aim of the HF Digital Contest is for participants to contact as many radio amateurs in Southern Africa as possible on 20, 40 and 80 metres and from 14:00 to 17:00 UTC (16:00 to 19:00 CAT) this afternoon Sunday 15 August. The exchange is an RSQ report and a consecutive serial number starting at 001. To prevent confusion, please make use of RTTY and PSK31 for the contest. Each station may be worked once per mode per band and each QSO counts 1,5 points.

Do not “WhatsApp a QSO,” call CQ or answer a CQ call. Get all the rules on page 86 of the 2021 Blue Book.

ANSWER YOUR ELECTRONIC QSLS

Almost everybody is working towards a Worked All ZS Certificate and getting the required QSOs is the easy part. After the QSOs are uploaded to the SARL Electronic QSL system, the waiting game starts – when will the other station confirm the QSOs by uploading his or her log? If you are active on the bands, please check your electronic QSL requests regularly and confirm the outstanding requests.

BOUVET ISLAND DXPEDITIONS ARE IN PLANNING STAGES FOR 2021, 2022 AND 2023

Parallel planning is under way by three groups for DXpeditions to Bouvet Island in 2021, 2022 and 2023. The remote volcanic, glacial sub-Antarctic island in the South Atlantic is the second-most-wanted DXCC entity, according to Club Log. In June, the Intrepid-DX Group cancelled its 3Y0J DXpedition planned for 2023, after the RV *Braveheart* was put up for sale. Not long after, the Intrepid-DX Group revived its plans and was seeking a suitable vessel.

On August 8, a DXpedition using the 3Y0J call sign announced the signing of a contract with the expedition vessel *Marama*, a 30 m sailing ketch with “a proven track record and experienced polar crew.” Co-leaders for the November 2022 effort are Ken, LA7GIA; Rune, LA7THA and Erwann, LB1QI. Ken who holds the 3Y0J license, split from the Intrepid-DX Group DXpedition effort.

In a brief announcement on 3 August, Paul Ewing, N6PSE had said that a Bouvet DXpedition team under “revised leadership” had found “a suitable/affordable vessel willing to take us to Bouvet” and was negotiating the terms of that charter contract. Paul’s co-leaders would be David, WD5COV and Kevin, K6TD. The Intrepid-DX Group now must secure a new licence and landing permission from the Norwegian Polar Institute.

Meanwhile, Polish radio amateur Dom Grzyb, 3Z9DX says planning continues for a second expedition on Bouvet Island in late 2021, using the call sign 3Y0I. “As you probably know, our first attempt to reach the island of Bouvet in March 2019 failed,” Dom says on the DXpedition’s website. “We were so close, just 63 nautical miles off the shore of Bouvet Island.”

6 METRE REPEATER LINK IN THE WESTERN CAPE NOW PERMANENTLY ON

The Western Cape Repeater Working Group has installed a 6 metre link to the 145,650 MHz repeater at Du Toits Kloof Mountain above Paarl. The site is 1 310 meters above sea-level. The link is now permanently on 51,550 FM simplex. Every 5 minutes, the link transmits a Morse code beacon message of 6 5 0 in CW. If the beacon is heard, you can call on 51,550 FM. If received, the signal

will go out on the 145,650 MHz repeater as well as other linked repeaters in the Western Cape.

The 6 m antenna is a vertically polarized folded dipole, and the radio is an Alinco DR06T with 10-watt output. Western Cape repeater users should please monitor for calls via the 6 m link!

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THE MAY RAE

Noel Hammond, ZR6DX the RAE Manager told SARL News that all the licences for the RAE candidates who wrote and passed in May 2021, have been issued and e-mailed. So, check your inbox.

THE INTERNATIONAL LIGHTHOUSE AND LIGHTSHIP WEEKEND NEXT WEEKEND

The 24th International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend will be on the air from 00:01 UTC on Saturday 21 August to 23:59 UTC on Sunday 22 August 2021. To date 291 lighthouses across the globe have registered for this event. There are ten South African Lighthouses registered for the weekend. They are Roman Rock, ZS0RR; Cape Hangklip, ZS1CRG; Green Point in Cape Town, ZS1CT; Danger Point, ZS1OAR; Doring Bay, ZS1RC; Cape St Blaize, ZS1SKR; Seal Point at Cape St Francis, ZR2BK; Cape Recife, ZS2PE; Cooper, ZS5D and Green Point, Clansthal, ZS6WR/5. Good luck to all the activators!

To apply for the 2021 South African Lighthouse Certificate, make use of the log sheet on the Contest page of the League website. Send your log sheet to zs4bfn@mweb.co.za with closing date of Tuesday 31 August 2021. ADIF and Cabrillo files are not welcome.

CONTEST NEWS

The fourth SARL 40 m Grid Square sprint is on the air from 12:00 to 13:00 UTC (14:00 to 15: CAT) on Saturday 28 August. The SARL HF CW Contest will be run from 14:00 to 17:00 UTC (16:00 to 19:00 CAT) on Sunday 29 August.

The preliminary results of the SARL HF Phone Contest: Twenty-nine logs were received for the SARL HF Phone Contest held on Sunday 1 August 2021. Eight logs were received from single operator single band stations, twenty logs from single operator all band stations and one log from a multi-operator station. 1 288 QSOs were made during the three hours.

It was noticed that “WhatsApp a QSO” was active in a log or two. Do not resort to soliciting points; just work the stations calling CQ! The DX Code of Conduct states: “I will respect my fellow radio amateurs and conduct myself so as to earn their respect!”

Multi-operator station

The Cape Radio Group, ZS1CRG – 95 points

Single operator all band stations

1st Jan Botha, ZS4JAN – 179 points

2nd Gerhard Coetzee, ZS3TG – 120 points

3rd Woody Collett, ZS3WL – 113 points

Single operator single band stations

1st Dave Higgs, ZS2DH – 78 points

2nd Kobus Boshoff, ZS6BOS – 70 points

3rd Karen Andrew, ZS6MMA – 43 points

Club Competition

1st the Northern Cape ARC – 411 points

2nd the West Rand ARC – 253 points

3rd PEARS – 214 points

CLUB NEWS

The Annual General Meeting of the Johannesburg Amateur Radio Club will be held from 09:30 CAT on Saturday 18 September 2021. Please direct any queries to the Chairman, Kobie van Zyl, ZS6KVZ or the Secretary, David Le Grange, ZR6DLG.

PROPAGATION REPORT

Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, reports that the solar activity is expected to be at low levels. There are currently a few small sunspot regions with simple magnetic configurations visible and no flaring activity is expected. If you want to do your own frequency predictions, the expected effective sunspot number for the week will be around one. During the late afternoons the 17 to 30 m bands may provide some DX fun. Please visit the website spaceweather.sansa.org.za for further information.

Finally, a diary of some upcoming events:

This afternoon – the SARL HF Digital Contest

21 and 22 August – the International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend

28 August – the SARL 40 m Grid Square Sprint, the CTARC virtual meeting and the Pretoria ARC Flea Market

28 and 29 August – the 41st Australian Ladies Amateur Radio Association Contest

29 August – the SARL HF CW Contest

31 August – the Secunda ARC meeting

4 September – the West Rand Flea Market and the Durban ARC meeting

4 and 5 September – the IARU Region 1 HF Field Day and the Namibian Field Day

6 to 8 September - Rosh Hashanah

8 September – the Early Morning Coffee Sprint

11 and 12 September – the SARL National Field Day and the Worked All Europe SSB contest

13 September – the West Rand ARC meeting

To conclude our bulletin, a recap of our main news story:

The aim of the HF Digital Contest is for participants to contact as many radio amateurs in Southern Africa as possible on 20, 40 and 80 metres and from 14:00 to 17:00 UTC (16:00 to 19:00 CAT) this afternoon Sunday 15 August. Get all the rules on page 86 of the 2021 Blue Book.

This concludes our bulletin for this morning.

We invite clubs and individuals to submit news items of interest to radio amateurs and shortwave listeners, in both English and Afrikaans, if possible, by following the News Inbox link on the South African Radio League web page. News items to be included in the bulletin should reach the news team no later than the Thursday preceding the bulletin date.

You are welcome to join us every Sunday morning for the weekly radio programme, Amateur Radio Today at 10:00 CAT. The programme can be heard on VHF and UHF repeaters countrywide and on 7 082 kHz lower side-band by courtesy of Louis, ZS5LP. A rebroadcast by Andy, ZS6ADY, can be heard on Monday evenings at 19:30 CAT on 3 620 kHz.

We welcome your signal reports, comments, and suggestions; please send these by e-mail to artoday@sarl.org.za.

You have listened to a news bulletin compiled by Dennis Green, ZS4BS, edited by Dave Reece, ZS1DFR and read by

From the News team, best wishes for the week ahead.